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SOURCE Minju Chosun.

LABOR MINISTRY REVIEWS 1949 WORK;
STEEL MILL RECRUITS WOMEN WORKERS

ASKS BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR LAW -- Minju Chosun, 11 Feb 50

Ho Song-t'aek, Minister of Labor of the People's Republic, called an annual meeting on 9 February to review the results of labor administration work carried out during 1949. Labor officials, public health officials, directors of various sanitariums, asylums for the aged, and employment service centers in each province were called in for the meeting. In all, 230 officials attended.

The Minister of Labor stated in his report that, during 1949, labor discipline was markedly improved through cooperation from the workers. Attendance and morale also improved over 1948. The contract-wage system has been widely adopted, producing good results. A proper distribution of manpower has been maintained, and the safety and health of workers were kept at high levels. Better foods were supplied to the people in the rest centers to improve their physical conditions.

The Minister's report was followed by discussions by the provincial labor and social welfare officials concerning their 1949 work. Vice-Premier Kim Ch'aek advised the officials to enforce the Labor Law more effectively this year.

An official ceremony was conducted after the meeting, and honorary flags and official commendations were conferred upon the Sokwangsa Rest Center, Oe-Kumgang Rest Center, Hamgyong Namdo Employment Service, and the Nanam Asylum for the Aged, for their outstanding accomplishments during 1949.

WIVES TO RELIEVE MANPOWER SHORTAGE -- Minju Chosun, 11 Feb 50

The Songjin Steel Mill in Hamgyong Pukto urgently needs more than 600 new workers for its expanded 1950 production program. A joint meeting was called in the early part of January by the mill management and the representatives

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of local political and social organizations, to find a solution to the problem. This joint meeting decided to recruit into the workshops as many workers' wives as possible.

Wherever substitution is possible, the men will be replaced by their wives and shifted to heavier tasks. The wives will be assigned to "light" tasks such as operation of cranes, construction projects, transportation services, and re-processing of waste materials. The husbands who have been assigned to secondary types of work because of poorer skill relative to other male workers will have opportunity to do more essential work, in which they may acquire new skills.

However, as the circumstances permit, the husband and wife will be assigned to the same workshop so that there will be closer family cooperation and higher zeal for their work. In this way, the mill will benefit by permanently stabilized manpower on the family basis, and the workers will benefit because it is no longer necessary for the husbands and wives to maintain separate households when the wives move into the mill's dormitory. Furthermore, the increased family earnings through the all-out family participation in the production, and the pooling of the resources and culture of the workers' families into a centralized community will bring about higher economic and cultural standards for the group as a whole.

Seven wives volunteered to work when the recruiting of wives began on 20 January 1950. On the following day, the number increased to 19; by the 22d, to 30; by the 23d, to 45. Nevertheless, the recruiting is being continued to secure the required manpower for the expanded production plan of the Songjin Steel Mill.

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